

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1614

To provide grants to community colleges to improve the accessibility of computer labs and to provide information technology training for students and members of the public seeking to improve their computer literacy and information technology skills.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2009

Mr. SCHUMER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide grants to community colleges to improve the accessibility of computer labs and to provide information technology training for students and members of the public seeking to improve their computer literacy and information technology skills.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Community College
5 Technology Access Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

1 (1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term “commu-
2 nity college” means an educational institution in any
3 State that—

4 (A) admits as regular students only per-
5 sons having—

6 (i) a certificate of graduation from a
7 school providing secondary education or
8 the recognized equivalent of such a certifi-
9 cate; or

10 (ii) completed a secondary school edu-
11 cation in a home school setting that is
12 treated as a home school or private school
13 under State law;

14 (B) is legally authorized within such State
15 to provide a program of education beyond sec-
16 ondary education;

17 (C) provides not less than a 2-year pro-
18 gram that is acceptable for full credit toward
19 an associate’s degree;

20 (D) is a public or other nonprofit institu-
21 tion; and

22 (E) is accredited by a nationally recognized
23 accrediting agency or association, or if not so
24 accredited, is an institution that has been
25 granted preaccreditation status by such an

1 agency or association that has been recognized
2 by the Secretary for the granting of
3 preaccreditation status, and the Secretary has
4 determined that there is satisfactory assurance
5 that the institution will meet the accreditation
6 standards of such an agency or association
7 within a reasonable time.

8 (2) COMPUTER LAB.—The term “computer lab”
9 means a dedicated community college facility that
10 provides onsite computer software, hardware, and
11 technical support for students, faculty, and staff.

12 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of Education.

14 (4) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
15 ing given the term in section 103 of the Higher
16 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

17 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT PROGRAM.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated
19 under section 4, the Secretary shall award grants,
20 on a competitive basis, to community colleges eligible
21 under subsection (d) to enable the community col-
22 leges—

23 (A) to improve the accessibility of com-
24 puter labs; and

1 (B) to provide information technology
2 training for students and members of the public
3 seeking to improve their computer literacy and
4 information technology skills.

5 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—

6 (A) MANDATORY.—A community college
7 receiving a grant award under this Act shall use
8 the grant funds for the maintenance, adminis-
9 tration, and improvement of computer labs,
10 which shall include—

- 11 (i) staffing facilities;
- 12 (ii) purchasing computer equipment,
13 including hardware and software;
- 14 (iii) maintaining, repairing, and re-
15 placing technology equipment;
- 16 (iv) maintaining and securing facili-
17 ties; or
- 18 (v) providing utilities for the facilities
19 and computer equipment.

20 (B) ADDITIONAL USES WITH AUTHORIZA-
21 TION.—A community college receiving a grant
22 award under this Act may use the grant funds
23 to expand or build a computer lab by submit-
24 ting an application for such use to the Sec-

1 retary and receiving authorization for such use
2 from the Secretary.

3 (c) APPLICATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—A community college seeking
5 a grant award under this Act shall submit an appli-
6 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
7 ner, and containing such information and assurances
8 as the Secretary may require.

9 (2) PROPOSED USE.—A community college shall
10 include in the application the community college's
11 proposed use of the grant funds.

12 (d) ELIGIBILITY.—A community college is eligible for
13 a grant award under this Act if the community college's
14 application under subsection (c) demonstrates that the
15 community college will—

16 (1) keep a computer lab open not less than 10
17 hours on weekends to members of the public;

18 (2) keep a computer lab open not less than 20
19 hours on weekday evenings to members of the pub-
20 lic, except that if the computer lab is open more
21 than 10 hours on weekends as required under para-
22 graph (1), then each additional hour above 10 hours
23 on weekends shall reduce by 1 hour the 20 hours re-
24 quired under this paragraph;

1 (3) provide computer lab instruction (by an em-
2 ployee of the community college who is capable of
3 providing basic computer instruction) to members of
4 the public for hours that the computer lab is open
5 under paragraphs (1) and (2); and

6 (4) offer computer-related training at no charge
7 to members of the public for hours that the com-
8 puter lab is open under paragraphs (1) and (2).

9 (e) GRANT AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall deter-
10 mine the amount of a grant award under this Act based
11 on the applications received under subsections (b)(2)(B)
12 and (c).

13 **SEC. 3. REPORTS.**

14 (a) ANNUAL REPORT BY A COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—
15 For each fiscal year that a community college receives a
16 grant award under this Act, the community college shall
17 submit to the Secretary, by a date determined by the Sec-
18 retary, a report that contains a review and evaluation of
19 the computer lab, including the computer lab's costs,
20 hours of operation, and amount of users.

21 (b) REPORT BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall
22 submit annually to Congress a report on the grant pro-
23 gram assisted under this Act, including the number of
24 grant awards made and the approximate number of per-

1 sons served by each computer lab receiving funds under
2 this Act.

3 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
5 this Act \$125,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010
6 to 2014.

